objective to the slit. The slit of the spectrograph and the plate-holders are placed in the focal plane of the forty-foot objective, upon a concrete pier in the observatory, near the south side. The grating and the lens, which serves as both collimator and camera lens, are mounted upon another pier fifteen feet north of the first.

The building is made of stone and stands on a slight elevation in the park, well removed from other buildings and from ordinary travel. A flat roof or deck floor covers the building, except the central portion where the dome-room stands. This deck, protected by the parapet which crowns the walls, affords a good place for direct observation of the sky.

The opening of the observatory was the occasion of a notable address by Dr. GEORGE E. HALE, Director of the Mt. Wilson Solar Observatory, announcing some important discoveries recently made at Mt. Wilson concerning the vortical character of sun-spots.

VISIBILITY OF MT. WHITNEY FROM MT. HAMILTON.

It has been the tradition at Lick Observatory that Mt. Whitney could not be seen from Mt. Hamilton because of an intervening mountain.

A year or two ago, when the air was unusually clear after some of the winter storms, the Sierras could be traced almost to their extreme southern end. A coffin-shaped peak was noticed then which looked very much as the pictures of Mt. Whitney would lead one to expect. So striking was the resemblance that the bearing of Mt. Whitney from Mt. Hamilton was determined from their known geographical positions.

Just recently the Sierras were exceptionally clear and the same peak was visible, as well as the outlines of a nearer dark range projected against the snow of the more distant range. The bearing of the peak supposed to be Whitney was measured with a surveyor's transit. Following are the computed and observed directions:—

Computed bearing of Mt. Whitney from Lick Observatory, main building—16 ° 28′ south of east.

Observed bearing of Mt. Whitney from Lick Observatory, main building—16° 30′ south of east.

Distance, 191 miles.

An examination of the topographical maps of that region, published by the U. S. Geological Survey, shows that about ten miles this side of Mt. Whitney there is a group of peaks known as Milestone Mountain, the highest of which is given as 13,682 feet. I find, however, that the line of sight to Mt. Whitney passes just south of the Milestone peaks.

As further tending to identify Mt. Whitney, there is a sharp, isolated peak just to the north, in the proper direction for a peak on the map named Mt. Russell, whose altitude is 14,190 feet.

The close agreement of the directions, together with the appearance and facts above noted, convince me that it is Mt. Whitney which we see. C. D. PERRINE.

MT. HAMILTON, CAL., January 18, 1909.

NOTE ON THE SPECTRUM OF COMET *c* 1908 (MOREHOUSE).

In *Lick Observatory Bulletins* Nos. 145 and 147 the writers have published the results of the spectroscopic observations, both visual and photographic, of Comet *c* 1908. In the early visual observations Mr. CAMPBELL noticed that the spectrum had unusual features. The carbon bands at λ 4737, λ 5165, and λ 5635 were present in their usual relative intensities, but three bands to the violet of λ 4737, and a feeble one near $H\beta$ seemed to be new, or at least in very much greater relative strength than in previous comets observed at Mt. Hamilton. Four spectrograms of the comet were secured. The new lines (or bands) were recorded strongly, with the exception of the one near $H\beta$, for which region the plates used are not very sensitive.

The continuous spectrum seems to be almost entirely absent —all but a few per cent. of the photographic light being concentrated in seven lines at λ 3913, λ 4003, λ 4023, λ 4255, λ 4276, λ 4549, and λ 4571, in two lines at λ 4690 and λ 4715 which are probably the edges of flutings in the fourth carbon band, and in two lines at λ 3869 and λ 3883 which are due to cyanogen. We are unable to suggest a probable origin for the first seven lines mentioned. The six lines between λ 4003 and λ 4571, both inclusive, are no doubt identical with three pairs of lines observed by CHRÉTIEN[1] in the spectrum of

[1] *Comptes Rendus*, **145**, 549, 1907.